

Pan-Japan

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**John F. Goucher**

**Number.....**

# **Basis of Union**

**UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**

**BY THE**

**JOINT UNION COMMISSION**

**IN REGULAR SESSION**

**IN**

**NAGOYA, JAPAN.**

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*February 5th-7th, 1890.*

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# BASIS OF UNION

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## RESOLUTION.

Resolved:—That we consider a Union of the  
Methodist bodies in Japan desirable.

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## CHAPTER I.

THE CHURCH—NAME—DOCTRINAL STANDARDS—  
GENERAL RULES AND RITUAL.

### ARTICLE I.

NAME.

The name shall be the Methodist Church of  
Japan.



## ARTICLE II.

### STANDARDS OF DOCTRINES.

The doctrines of the Methodist Church of Japan are declared to be those contained in the Twenty-five Articles of Religion and those taught by Rev. John Wesley, M.A., in his "Notes on the New Testament" and in the first fifty-two Sermons of the first series of his discourses published during his lifetime.

## ARTICLE III.

### GENERAL RULES, ETC.

The General Rules, as well as the Chapters on Membership and Means of Grace and the Administration of Discipline, shall be substantially as they are found in the Discipline of the three uniting Churches.\*

## ARTICLE IV.

### THE RITUAL.

The Ritual also shall remain substantially the same with the exception of the form in the Discipline of the M. E. Churches for the Conse-

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\* The Discipline of the Canada Methodist Church and that of M. E. Church, South, of the date of 1886 ; that of the M. E. Church, date of 1888.



cration of Bishops, which shall be adapted to use in the induction of the Sotoku into office.

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## CHAPTER II.

### MINISTERIAL AND LAY OFFICERS.

#### *A.—The Ministry.*

#### ARTICLE I.

##### SOTOKU.

The chief officer of the Church shall be called Sotoku.

#### ARTICLE II.

##### ELECTION, INDUCTION, AND TERM OF OFFICE.

*Section 1.*—The General Conference shall elect the Sotoku by ballot in open session.

*Section 2.*—The Sotoku shall be inducted into office by appropriate religious services.

*Section 3.*—The term of office of the Sotoku shall be twelve years with no re-election.

#### ARTICLE III.

##### DUTIES AND PREROGATIVES OF THE SOTOKU.

*Section 1.*—The Sotoku shall be chairman of



the General and Annual Conferences, and of all Standing Committees belonging thereto.

*Section 2.*—He shall travel throughout the field to exercise supervision and see that the Discipline is enforced therein.

*Section 3.*—He shall have power to transfer preachers from one Conference to another within his jurisdiction.

*Section 4.*—He shall decide all questions of law involved in proceedings pending in the Annual Conference subject to an appeal to the General Conference; but in all cases the application of law shall be with the Annual Conference.

*Section 5.*—He shall, in consultation with the Choroshi, station the preachers with the following provisions—viz., (1) If any one of the Choroshi shall appeal against any appointment made by the Sotoku, and his appeal be sustained by a two-thirds vote of the Choroshi, it shall prevail. (2) Should any Foreign Missionary feel himself aggrieved by his appointment, he shall have the right to present his case to a committee consisting of not less than six Missionaries representing the Uniting Mission, which committee shall consider the case and dispose of it as may be deemed best in consultation with the Sotoku.



ARTICLE IV.

CHOROSHI.

The chief officer of the district shall be called Choroshi.

ARTICLE V.

ELECTION OF CHOROSHI.

The Choroshi shall be elected by the Annual Conference by ballot.

ARTICLE VI.

DUTIES AND PREROGATIVES OF THE CHOROSHI.

*Section 1.*—To act as Chairman of the District to which he is appointed and of all permanent committees belonging thereto.

*Section 2.*—To superintend the work within the bounds of his District.

*Section 3.*—To attend as far as practicable all the Quarterly Conferences within his District, and when present he shall preside.

*Section 4.*—The Choroshi may have a pastoral charge.

ARTICLE VII.

BOKUSHI.

The preacher in charge of a Circuit or Station shall be called Bokushi.



## ARTICLE VIII.

## APPOINTMENT OF BOKUSHI.

All preachers shall be appointed to their pastoral charges annually, but no preacher shall be allowed to remain more than five consecutive years on the same charge. Those appointed to positions in educational institutions and other special offices of the Church may be exempt from this limitation by permission of the Conference.

## ARTICLE IX.

## DUTIES AND PREROGATIVES OF THE BOKUSHI.

Each ordained pastor shall have jurisdiction within his charge and shall be chairman of his Quarterly Conference in the absence of the Choroshi.

## ARTICLE X.

## MINISTERIAL ORDERS.

*Section 1.*—Two orders of the ministry shall be recognized—Choro (Elder); Shitsuji (Deacon).

*Section 2.*—The preachers connected with the Annual Conferences shall be known as Elders and Probationers, including Deacons on trial.

*Section 3.*—No preacher shall be eligible to full membership in an Annual Conference until



he shall have been on probation four years and been elected an Elder.

*B.—Lay Officers.*

ARTICLE XI.

The Lay Officers of the Church are Local Preachers, Class Leaders, Stewards, Trustees, and Sunday School Superintendents.

ARTICLE XII.

The qualifications and duties of the Lay Officers of the Church shall be as declared in the Disciplines in the Uniting Churches.

ARTICLE XIII.

Local Preachers shall not receive ordination.

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CHAPTER III.

CONFERENCES.

*A.—General Conference.*

ARTICLE I.

COMPOSITION.

The General Conference shall be composed of an equal number of Ministerial and Lay representatives.



## ARTICLE II.

## MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION.

The Ministerial representation in the General Conference shall be composed of one delegate for every five members of each Annual Conference, to be elected by ballot by the Ministerial members of the same at the session of the Annual Conference next preceding that of the General Conference. Provided : That no member of an Annual Conference shall be eligible to membership in the General Conference until he shall have been in full membership two full years.

## ARTICLE III.

## LAY REPRESENTATION.

The Lay representation in the General Conference shall be elected by the Lay members of the Annual Conference at the session next preceding that of the General Conference. Provided : That no Layman shall be eligible to election who has not attained the age of twenty-five years and been a member of the Church for five consecutive years.

## ARTICLE IV.

## POWERS OF.—RESTRICTIVE RULES.

The General Conference shall have full power



to make rules and Regulations for our Church under the following limitation and restrictions—viz.

1. The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, nor change our Articles of Religion, nor establish any new Standards or Rules of Doctrine contrary to our existing and established Standards of Doctrines.

2. The General Conference shall not change nor alter any part or rule of our government so as to do away with the office of Sotoku, nor destroy the plan of our Itinerant system or of our Itinerant General Superintendency.

3. The General Conference shall not do away with the privileges of our ministry or probationers for the ministry of trial by a committee and of an appeal, neither shall they do away with the privilege of our members of trial before the Society or by a committee and of an appeal.

### *B.—Annual Conference.*

#### ARTICLE V.

##### CONSTITUTED OF.

The Annual Conference shall be composed of all the travelling preachers within its jurisdiction who have been received into full connection, and an equal number of laymen who have been elected as elsewhere provided for.



ARTICLE VI.

POWERS OF.

The Annual Conference shall review the reports of the District Conference in regard to the character of Ministers and Probationers for the Ministry, and may reprove, suspend, deprive of ministerial office and credentials, expel or acquit, any against whom charges may have been preferred. The lay members shall participate in all the business of the Conference except such as involves ministerial character.

*C.—District Conferences.*

ARTICLE VII.

COMPOSITION OF.

The District Conference shall be composed of all the Travelling and Local Preachers within its jurisdiction and one Lay representative from each Quarterly Conference.

ARTICLE VIII.

POWERS OF.

The powers of the District Conference shall be  
(1) The examination of ministerial character.  
(2) Regulations in regard to Probationers and Candidates for the Ministry. (3) Licensing of Local Preachers.



ARTICLE IX.

The examination of the character of Ministers and Probationers for the Ministry shall be confined to the Ministerial delegates of the Conference.

*D.—Quarterly Conference.*

ARTICLE X.

COMPOSITION OF.

The Quarterly Conference shall be composed of all the Travelling and Local Preachers, Exhorters, Stewards, Class Leaders, the first Superintendents of Sunday Schools, and the Trustees who are members of the Church within the pastoral charge.

ARTICLE XI.

POWERS OF.

The powers of the Quarterly Conference shall be substantially the same as defined in the Disciplines of the Uniting Churches, with the following modification : The examination of candidates for license to preach shall be conducted in the Quarterly Conference, but the granting and renewing of license shall be with the District Conference.



## CHAPTER IV.

### JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE—CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE—CONSTITUTION OF THE FIRST GENERAL CONFERENCE AND SPECIAL PROVISION.

#### ARTICLE I.

##### JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE.

*Section 1.*—There shall be a Joint Board of Finance composed of twelve members, one half of whom shall be Foreign Missionaries and one half Japanese Ministers or Laymen. The foreign members of this Board shall be appointed by the respective Missions. The Japanese members shall be appointed quadrennially by the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Japan.

*Section 2.*—The Joint Board of Finance shall control and apply all funds appropriated by the various Boards for evangelistic or other Connectional purposes.

*Section 3.*—But each Mission shall have full and exclusive control of all funds appropriated by the Board which it represents except such funds as may be appropriated specifically for Connectional purposes.

*Section 4.*—The Joint Board of Finance shall annually prepare estimates for evangelistic and other Connectional work. These estimates shall



be submitted to the United Missions for approval, after which they shall be forwarded to the respective Home Boards by the Missions. The Joint Board of Finance shall prepare annually full reports of all disbursements for the Missions, and these reports shall be transmitted by the respective Missions to the Home Boards.

## ARTICLE II.

### CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.

*Section 1.*—There shall be a Central Theological Seminary and a Central Higher College established at as early a date as practicable after the Union is effected.

*Section 2.*—The Theological Seminary and the Central Higher College shall be under the management of a Central Educational Committee of eighteen, composed of Foreign Missionaries and Japanese members in equal numbers. That Committee shall be representative each of the negotiating Missions electing its own representatives in its own way; the Japanese members of the General Conference in special session electing the Japanese representatives. Moreover the Committee shall have general advisory supervision over the entire educational work of the Church to unify and harmonize the general system.



*Section 3.*—The Central Educational Committee shall in all cases recommend annually suitable persons for professorships in the Central Higher College and the Theological Seminary, the Sotoku confirming the appointment in Annual Conference.

*Section 4.*—The respective Missions shall at such times and in such way as they may determine recommend annually suitable persons for work in the respective schools under their management, the Sotoku confirming the appointment in Annual Conference.

*Section 5.*—All school property hitherto acquired or that may hereafter be acquired shall remain under the exclusive management of the Mission representing the Board appropriating therefor, provided that in case of the establishment of Connectional institutions a proportional share of the expenses of the same shall be borne by the several negotiating Missions, the proportion to be agreed upon at the time and approved by the Boards represented.

### ARTICLE III.

#### CONSTITUTION AND TIME OF THE FIRST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

*Section 1.*—In case the Basis of Union is approved by the requisite majorities in the Quarterly



Conferences and Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Japan, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Japan and the Methodist Church of Japan, and by the General Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States and Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the United States and of the Methodist Church in Canada, it shall be competent for the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Japan and the Methodist Church, South, in Japan and the Methodist Church of Japan to elect delegates to the First General Conference of the United Church in the proportion of one out of five ministers in full connection with an equal number of laymen elected in Annual or Special Conference as the case may be, and these shall compose the First General Conference of the said United Church, with power to perform such acts as may be necessary to the final ratification of the Union and all other acts which may come within the province of a General Conference.

*Section 2.*—TIME OF THE FIRST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

In the event of the Basis of Union being approved, it is recommended that the First General Conference of the United Church be held in Tokyo at such time as may be fixed by a Committee appointed for the purpose by the Uniting Churches in Japan.



## ARTICLE IV.

## SPECIAL PROVISION.

It shall be admissible for any Church or Mission entering into this Union whose Ministers or Laymen shall not be qualified according to the standards prescribed in Articles II. and III. of the General Conference Regulations to elect from its Japanese members as many delegates to the First General Conference as there are foreign representatives entitled to election under the prescribed standards.

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*Committee of the Methodist Church of Japan.*

D. MACDONALD.	GEO. COCHRAN.
Y. HIRAIWA.	K. TOYAMA.

*Committee of the Mission of the M. E. Church,  
South.*

C. B. MOSELEY.	Y. YOSHIOKA.
N. W. UTLEY.	H. NAKAMURA.

*Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

J. SOPER.	H. YAMAKA.
C. S. LONG.	S. OGATA.

Signed in behalf of the Commission,

C. S. LONG,	C. B. MOSELEY,
<i>Chairman.</i>	<i>Secretary.</i>

Y. HIRAIWA,  
*Japanese Secretary.*







